Wednesday, December 26, 2012 ★★ 10 sections / Vol. 28 / No. 18 P18 Mobile Alert: Text INQ ON BREAKING to 4467 www.inquirer.net

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Make room for God, Pope tells faithful

VATICAN CITY—Pope Benedict XVI marked Christmas Eve with a Mass in St. Peter's Basilica and a pressing question: Will people find room in their hectic, technology-driven lives for children, the poor and God?

The ceremony began at 10 p.m. local time on Monday with the blare of trumpets, meant to symbolize Christian joy over the news of Christ's birth in Bethlehem. As midnight neared, church bells tolled throughout Rome, while inside the basilica, the sweet voices of the Vatican's boys' choir resounded joyously.

In his homily, Benedict cited the Gospel account of Mary and Joseph finding no room at an inn and ending up in a stable that sheltered the baby Jesus. He urged people to reflect upon what they find time for in their busy, technology-driven lives.

"The great moral question of our attitude toward the homeless, to-

MASS A8



CHRISTMAS EVE MASS Bishops help Pope Benedict XVI as he celebrates Christmas Eve Mass at St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City to mark the nativity of Jesus Christ. The Pope said religion could be corrupted, leading to violence and wars, but refuted critics who claim that denying God's existence would lead to peace. AFP

Storm threatens Eastern Visayas

'Quinta' to make landfall today, bring heavy rains

By DJ Yap and Nikko Dizon

RESIDENTS of the Visayas and Mindanao woke up to a wet and windy Christmas yesterday as a new storm emerged in the Pacific and threatened to deal a double whammy to a country still reeling from Typhoon "Pablo."

A low-pressure area developed into a tropical depression and later intensified into a storm—named "Quinta"—contrary to predictions by local weather forecasters.

Quinta (international name: "Wukong") was packing peak winds of 75 kilometers per hour near the center and gusts up to 90 kph, prompting the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) to raise storm warnings.

"Davao region is not expected to feel the impact of Quinta much because the storm is heading toward the Visayas, unlike Typhoon Pablo, which moved lower south," said Pagasa forecaster Vic Manalo III.

The storm, the 17th to hit the country this year, was forecast to move

STORM A11

'Pablo' survivors find haven in Tagum / A12

PATH OF TROPICAL STORM 'QUINTA'



SOURCE: PAGASA

Worshipers rejoice in Bethlehem

BETHLEHEM, West Bank—Pilgrims and locals celebrated Christmas Day on Tuesday in the ancient Bethlehem church where tradition holds Jesus was born, candles illuminating the sacred site and the joyous sound of prayer filling its overflowing halls.

Overcast skies and a cold wind didn't dampen the spirits of worshipers who came dressed in holiday finery and the traditional attire of foreign lands to mark the holy day in this biblical West Bank town.

Bells pealed and long lines formed inside the fourth-century Church of the Nativity complex as Christian faithful waited eagerly to see the grotto that is Jesus' traditional birthplace.

WORSHIPERS / A6

Questions about Santa reach record number

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colorado—A record number of calls from children (and some adults) swamped a US Air Force base as Santa Claus completed a whirlwind journey around the globe—the callers wanted to know everything from Saint Nick's age to how reindeer fly.

Oh, and when are the presents coming?

QUESTIONS / A6



Art show raises funds for victims of 'Pablo'

By Jocelyn R. Uy

IT'S NOT too late to make the thousands of victims of Typhoon "Pablo" in Mindanao happy this holiday season. Buy a painting and lend them a hand in the process.

Outstanding Filipino visual artists from the Intramuros Visual Artist of the Philippines (Ivap) have joined hands to stage an art exhibit dubbed "Handog" at historic Fort Santiago in Intramuros, Manila, for the benefit of families in Compostela Valley devastated by the killer typhoon.

"The holidays are upon us. Ivap aspires to bring comfort and hope to the families affected by the tragedy through our personal contributions," Nemi Miranda, the group's president, said in a statement.

Launched on Friday, the "for-a-cause" art exhibit will run until Jan. 7 at the newly restored Intramuros Visitors' Center in Fort Santiago in coordination with the Intramuros Administration (IA) and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

Miranda urged the public, especially art enthusiasts, hobbyists and art collectors, to buy artworks from a vast collection of Ivap's masterpieces at the ex-

ART SHOW / A17



FARMERS' 'NOCHE BUENA' Former members of Task Force Mapalad share food during the "noche buena" at the DAR building where they staged a hunger strike.

Women's group shows there's life after Luisita

By Fernando del Mundo
Chief, I-Team

(First of a series)

SPECIAL REPORT
PROMISED LAND

HACIENDA LUISITA, Tarlac City—It is harvest time in the sugar plantations.

Trucks laden with freshly cut sugarcane lumber along MacArthur Highway on their way to Central Azucarera de Tarlac, the sugar mill in Hacienda Luisita owned by the family of President Aquino.

On any given day in this sippy season of good cheer, hundreds of these trucks are parked, as far as the eye can see, in the vicinity of the sprawling mill. They wait for their turn to

WOMEN'S / A8

'Twas a good year for DAR, says De los Reyes / A18

Second Front Page



BEAUTIES ON ICE

[illegible]

Joker stalls 'dirty-money' law changes

By [illegible]

AN ATTEMPT to hasten the Senate deliberations on the third set of amendments to the country's Anti-Money Laundering Act (Amla) was side [illegible]

[illegible]

Last set of amendments

[illegible]

Sparing the banks

[illegible]

After Christmas with kin, P-Noy tries getaway

One of most wanted NPA leaders captured

More and more Chinese tourists are coming

Sources: Probers cleared Morato in PCSO case

By Jerry E. Esplanada

FORMER PHILIPPINE Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) director Manuel L. Morato has a "valid reason to be sore, if not mad as hell" at Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales, according to Ombudsman insiders.

Morales, they said, brushed aside a recommendation by a five-member Ombudsman panel of investigators to dismiss the P366-million plunder and malversation of public funds charges against Morato and his corespondents in the PCSO case, now pending the Sandiganbayan.

Aside from Morato, also charged in the case are former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, ex-PCSO chair Sergio Valencia, former PCSO general manager Rosario Uriarte and ex-directors Jose 'Taruc' V. Raymundo Roquero and Ma. Fatima Valdes, as well as former Commission on Audit (COA) chair Reynaldo Villar.

The same sources have furnished the Inquirer a copy of the investigation panel's 32-page resolution, dated March 2, in which the investigators said there was "no proof or basis for the charge of plunder against the respondents."

Absence of evidence

The panel was chaired by Deputy Special Prosecutor Carmelo Sumido and Mary Susan Guillermo, Joaquin Salazar, Raquel Dator and Nellie Boguen-Golez were the members of the panel.

In their resolution, the investigators said "what was merely established in the record was that respondent Uriarte received the checks and the money representing the additional intelligence funds as requested, approved by [Arroyo] and confirmed by the [PCSO] board of directors."

"The encashment of the checks was evidenced by Uriarte's signature in the dorsal portion of the checks. [But] the record is completely wanting of proof that the proceeds of the checks became the ill-gotten wealth of the respondents," the investigators said.

For the money to be considered ill-gotten, the investigators said, "there must be evidence that the amount was already converted in some form that would establish ownership by the public officer, or his/her dummies, nominees, agents, subordinates or business associates and not by mere physical possession of the amount."

In the absence of such evidence, the investigators recommended the dismissal of the charges against Morato and his corespondents.

But the investigators said the respondents "should be held liable for violation of Section 3(e) of Republic Act No. 3019, considering that the 2008-2009 General Appropriations Act did not allocate any confidential and intelligence funds for the PCSO."

'Hurt, very sad'

When reached for comment, Morato, who is being held in arrest at St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City, declined to talk about the resolution.

He told the Inquirer earlier that he was "hurt and very sad" for being blamed for something he did not do or had anything to do with involving disbursement of intelligence funds at the PCSO.

But Morato sent his "best wishes to all Filipinos who have been spared political prosecution."

During his arraignment earlier this month, Morato refused to enter a plea, prompting the court to enter a not guilty plea on his behalf.

The graft court's first division set the preliminary conference for Jan. 10.

Morato, who served as PCSO chair in the Ramos administration, had asked the Supreme Court to review the charges against him and to stop the proceedings in the Sandiganbayan.

The Sandiganbayan allowed Morato to be held in a hospital under the supervision of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) after he submitted a medical certificate showing that he underwent open heart surgery on Oct. 22.





ARROYO

4 Pampanga residents ask SC to stop case vs GMA

By Christine O. Avendaño

SAYING THEY have been deprived of congressional representation, four Pampanga residents have sought to intervene in the petition of former President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in the Supreme Court to stop the Sandiganbayan from proceeding with the plunder case against her involving the alleged misuse of Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) intelligence funds.

The petitioners also sought the release of the former from detention at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City where she was brought back last month after being charged of plunder, this time in the Office of the Ombudsman.

In a Dec. 20 petition for intervention, Rico Ramiro Ocampo, Eugene Paul Ponio, Marcelo Alvaro Valencia and Joaquin Mallalise identified themselves as residents of the second district of Pampanga where Arroyo is currently a representative. They claimed to have voted for her in the last elections.

The petitioners from Lubao, Pampanga, said Arroyo had "not fully donned her duty serving her district" since she was first charged for electoral sabotage in November 2011. After being granted bail, she was back in detention for the plunder case filed against her in relation to the alleged misuse of PCSO funds.

Deprived of rep's service

"Due to the nonbailable cases against her, the intervenors are begging the indulgence of the honorable court to allow them to intervene in the instant case because they have been deprived of being served by their incumbent representative in the House of Representatives," they said.

The petitioners also said they believe the charges against her were "politically motivated" and she had been denied due process.

In their petition, the four men asked the high court to "immediately issue a temporary restraining order and/or a writ of preliminary injunction enjoining the respondent Ombudsman from prosecuting the case, and the respondent Sandiganbayan from proceeding with the case and from continuing with the arrest and detention of Arroyo."

Humanitarian reasons

While the TRO is in effect, they asked the high court to issue an order releasing Arroyo from arrest and detention "for humanitarian considerations due to her medical condition and stature as former President of the Philippines."

They also sought the court to eventually annul and set aside the Ombudsman's findings of probable cause to charge Arroyo with plunder and to order the Sandiganbayan to dismiss the case against her.

The high court is currently on a Christmas break.

Only last week, the Sandiganbayan had denied Arroyo's request for a Christmas furlough. She had wanted to spend the Yuletide in her home in Lubao, Pampanga, from Dec. 22 to Jan. 7.

Belgium eyed as market for PH nurses

By Tina G. Santos

THE PHILIPPINE government is considering Belgium as a new market for Filipino nurses.

Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz said talks that could lead to the enactment of a mutual recognition arrangement for Filipino nurses are now underway.

"This could result in the deployment of our nurses to Belgium and probably even to other member-countries of the European Union," Baldoz said in an interview.

[illegible]

"Based on the directive, licensed Filipino nurses will have to undergo courses adaptation to elevate their credentials to be at par with the Belgian nursing curriculum," Baldoz said.

Questions about Santa reach record number



SANTA VOLUNTEERS Brig. Gen. Richard Scobee talks with a fellow volunteer while taking phone calls from children asking where Santa is and when he will deliver presents to their homes, during the annual Norad Tracks Santa Operation at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

It started on a mistake

Caught off-guard

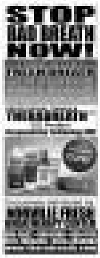
16 centuries old

3.5 billion presents

Police elves

Faster than starlight

Party-list purge to save gov't millions, says Comelec







Correction

The Daily Gospel





Make room for God, Pope tells faithful

'Urbi et Orbi'

Phrase of religion

Tour of trouble spots

Church bombings

Worshipers rejoice in Bethlehem



SQUARE SCENE Thousands of Palestinians and tourists gather for Christmas Eve celebrations in Manger Square and the Church of the Nativity in the biblical West Bank city of Bethlehem, believed to be the birthplace of Jesus Christ.

Times Square

Nonbelievers, too

Festivities amid suffering

Christmas carols

'Encounter with God'

Ombudsman clears BFAD execs of graft

[illegible]

'No lots of evidence'

[illegible]

'Learnvironment' in the workplace

[illegible]

Integrated approach

[illegible]

'Twas a good year for DAR, says De los Reyes



Women's group shows there's life after Luisita



Gov't, MILF peacemakers optimistic despite deadlock

P-Noy thinking

Transition body









Across the NATION

'Pablo' survivors find haven in Tagum

TAGUM CITY—Some 80 kilometers away from his devastated community, 44-year-old Edwin Balinas has found a place where he wouldn't worry anymore about food, clothing and most importantly, the threat of another deluge every time it rains.



CHILDREN watch television at an evacuation center for typhoon victims in Tagum City on Dec. 25.



19 fall ill of Chikungunya fever in Albay

Gwen continues to defy Malacañang, spends Christmas inside office

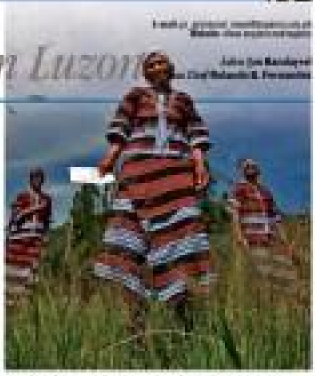
Christmas story: 'We felt free, even just for a moment'



32 nabbed for firecracker ban violation in Davao

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

In Benguet, continuing oral tradition via written word



Members of the present generation are either getting less interested in the knowledge of their elders or are simply distracted by TV, mobile phones and social networks

Historical snapshot

Alibi

Remembering 'Nanoy'



PEOPLE

All-Baguio cast, crew push film to top indie awards

INQUIRER

OPINION

A good year

EDITORIAL



My favorite Christmas memories

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

Divorced

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

P-Noy's triumphs can make PH a rising Asian star

COMMENTARY

Faith Bautista and Cora Oriel

The 'Santa Claus' of RH

AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

The first Christmas tree in the Philippines

LOOKING BACK



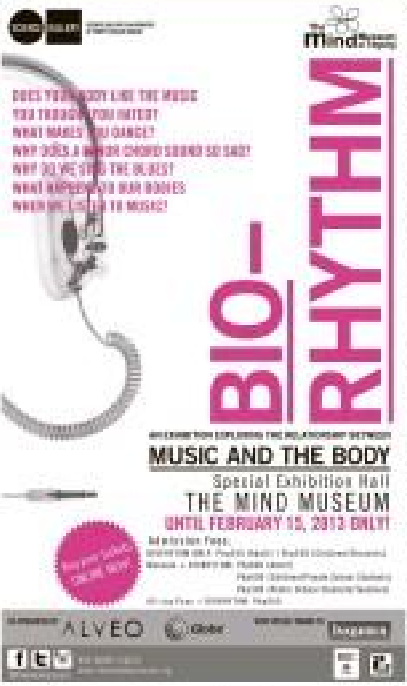
Ambeth R. Ocampo

Christmas old and new

PINOY KASI



Michael L. Tan





What to do to beat political dynasties

LETTERS

Rural areas still far from mainstream of development



Storm threatens Eastern Visayas



Art show raises funds for victims of 'Pablo'

Japanese donation

Rhyme and reason this Christmas season





Donaire plans busy 2013 schedule

In Huddle
Beth Celis



Meralco Nat'l Doubles unwraps at WW

AFTER SUZUKI LOSS

Thai football coach's job not in peril

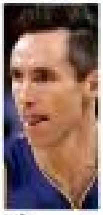


PBAPC names James week's best performer

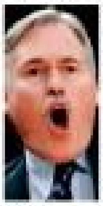


Clippers, not Lakers, highlight LA twinbill

Nash-LA partnership faces New York test



NASH



D'ANTONI



PJ SIMON of San Mig Coffee tries to elude Jeff Chan of Rain or Shine in yesterday's match.

SPORTS
Editor: Teddyvic S. Melendres
Assistant Editor: Francis T. J. Ochoa

Painters rip Mixers, grab 2-1 series lead

[illegible]

Warring NSAs may lose PSC assistance

[illegible]



A plus METRO

Editor: Joseph Voltaire L. Contreras

DID YOU KNOW

ACCORDING to data from the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, the 37th Metro Manila Film Festival which ran from Dec. 25, 2011 to Jan. 7, 2012, earned over P[illegible] million. This was around [illegible] percent higher than the previous film fest's earnings of P[illegible] million.

Schatzi Quodala, Inquirer Research

Holiday on ash: Christmas fires kill 8

Blaze sparks fatal riot in San Juan; 7 QC victims from one household

By Julie M. Aurelio and Kristine Felisse Mangunay

CHRISTMAS Day unleashed hell instead of bringing joy in Quezon City and San Juan, where seven people died in predawn fires and another was killed in an ensuing riot as residents vented their panicked rage on firemen.

At least 19 people were wounded and thousands were left homeless in the two infernos which authorities initially traced to electrical circuits that had probably overloaded from increased use during Christmas Eve parties.

After battling an hour-long blaze that began before dawn Tuesday, firefighters recovered seven charred bodies—all believed to be from one household—from a [illegible] apartment complex on [illegible] Street, Barangay [illegible], Quezon City.

Senior Fire Officer 3 Jose Felipe Aranas said the bodies were believed to be that of [illegible] Carlos [illegible] Sr., his wife Corina, 58; their two children, Carlos Jr., 25, and Eva, 30; Eva's two sons, Miguel Andrei [illegible] and Mateo Adam [illegible]; and their housekeeper Marites [illegible], 48.

Dr. [illegible], a veterinarian, owned the gated 16-unit apartment complex. His home [illegible] two buildings occupied by the tenants. He operated a clinic in the compound, where the carcasses of a dog and cat were also recovered.

Senior Supt. [illegible] Gomez, an [illegible] regional director for operations of the Bureau of Fire Protection-National Capital Region, said investigators may have to look for dental records to ascertain the identities of the dead, who were all burned beyond recognition.

A tenant recalled hearing shouts for help and "Sunog! Sunog!" before seeing the [illegible] residence already in flames around 3:30 a.m.

Gomez said one of the victims

FIRES A23

No peace on earth: Shooting, stabbing leave 4 dead



Holiday on ash: Christmas fires kill 8



HOT UNDERFOOT



THE MORNING AFTER NOCHE BUENA

Here we go again: Don't burn tires to greet 2013

In Italy, 321,000 applied for exams for 11,500 teaching jobs

Chavez aides suggest postponing inaugural



Santa comes to HK in a blaze of lights

UN envoy meets Assad; Russia plans evacuation

The WORLD

Gunman sets trap, kills 2 New York firefighters

WEBSTER, New York—It was a simple call to put out a car fire, the sort of routine job that firefighters tackle all the time. The fire truck hurtled to the assignment early Monday in this drowsy town on the shores of Lake Ontario that was preparing for the joys of Christmas.



Hashtag symbolizes end of an era for Newsweek

Gunfire kills young children daily in America



New Delhi shut down after protests

Muslims hurl rotten eggs at Christmas Mass



Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Dennis S. Martinez

BUSINESS



Gov't eyes revival of industry sector

Officials note strong interest among foreign investors

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE PHILIPPINES' chief economist expects to see a more vibrant industry sector in 2013 as the government focuses on key industries and strives to ease the processes and costs in doing business.

GOV'T B4

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

41.070



STOCK MARKET

26.2



5th year of stocks rally seen

Bullish economy reminiscent of pre-1997 crisis

By Daxim L. Lucas

SPECIAL REPORT



Brunei state oil company signs agreement with PNOC

Investment opportunities in LNG in Mindanao

Sweet sale

Biz Buzz

By the staff

Banks versus BIR, Part II

Another PPP partner

Gov't eyes revival

5th year of stocks

Philippine Stock Exchange

Currencies

'Tis the Season of Saving Lives

OBITUARIES

"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."
2 Corinthians 5:4-5

Atty. VENICIO "Veni" FLORES

peacefully joined his Creator on December 21, 2012 at the age of 82.

BUSINESS

BSP sees increase in foreign investments in '13

Prospects of credit rating upgrade get fund managers' attention

We need to pay attention to financial education, too

MONEY MATTERS



SNAP prepares to increase presence in hydro sector

Bullish economy reminiscent

Differences

1997 on his mind

In '13, PH growth may be second to China

2012 YEAREND Special

MOTORING

Editor Joey R. Amano

12 ways Toyota had fun in 2012

By Tessa R. Salazar

WAS 2012 a year like no other for Toyota in the Philippines? Toyota Motor Philippines replied a resounding "yes," and gave Inquirer Motoring 12 reasons.

1 STARTING THE YEAR FUN AND EXCITING

[illegible]

2 WELCOMING FRESH CHANGES

[illegible]

3 WELL-LOVED INNOVA KEEPS ON ROLLING

[illegible]

4 EMBRACING ALL SHAPES AND SIZES

[illegible]

5 BRINGING LUXURY TO ANOTHER LEVEL

[illegible]

6 EXPLORING THE BEAUTY OF THE COUNTRY

[illegible]

7 UNCOVERING A LEGEND

[illegible]

8 CELEBRATING SALES MILESTONES

[illegible]

9 TAKING PART IN THE COUNTRY'S BIGGEST MOTOR SHOW

[illegible]

10 BOOSTING THE POWER

[illegible]

11 LENDING AN EAR TO CLASSICAL MUSIC

[illegible]

12 THANKSGIVING AT CHRISTMAS

[illegible]







PRIUS C



[illegible]



[illegible]









Kaizen in constant motion here

By Tessa R. Salazar

[illegible]

2012 Sales Reference Chart

Model	YTD
[illegible]	[illegible]

[illegible]

Most model launches

[illegible]

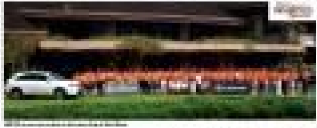
Earthquake, floods

[illegible]

Constant improvement

[illegible]

While others decline, Lexus shines







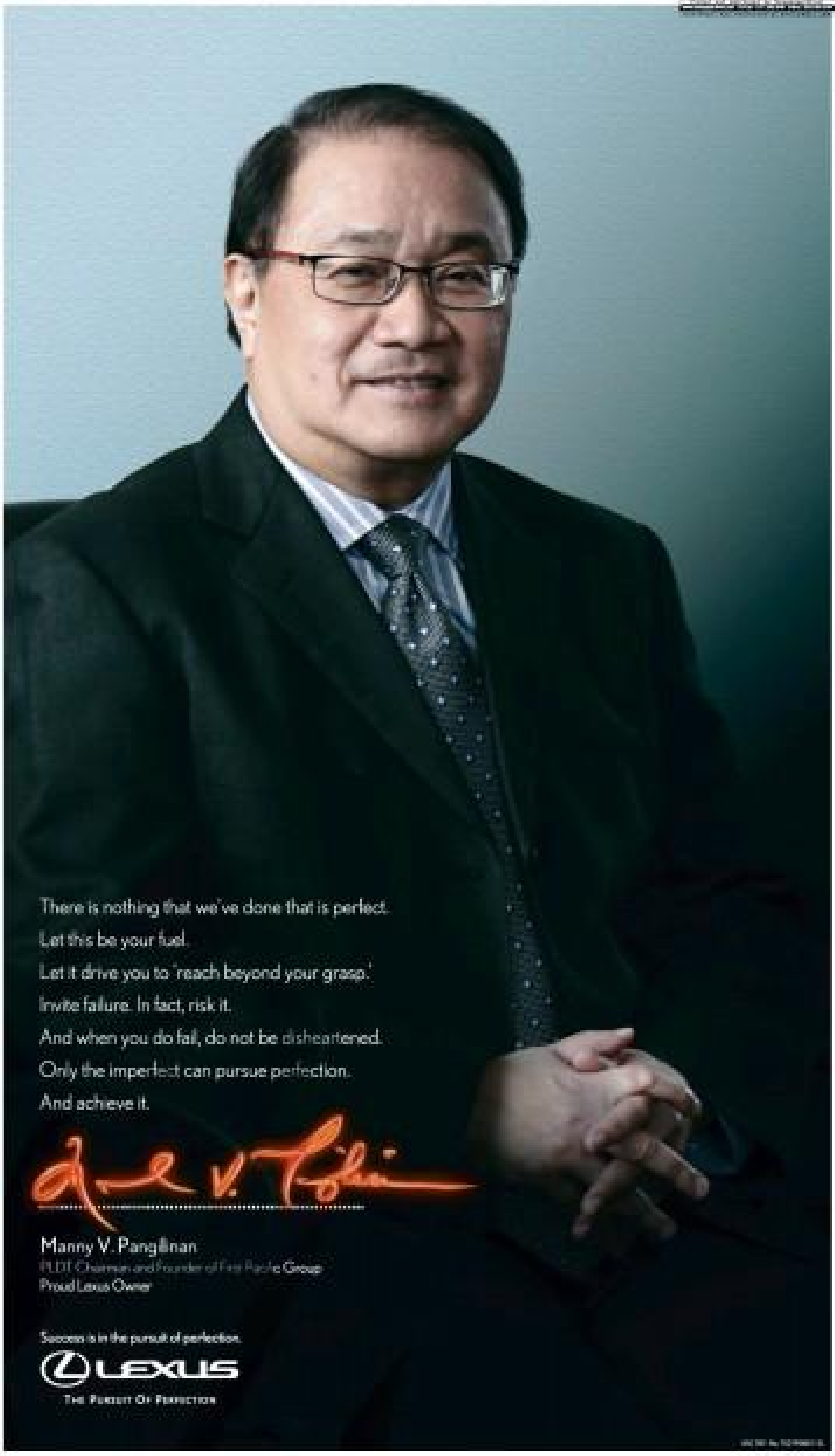


LEXUS DOMINATES US, PH

What inspired luxury looks and rides like






There is nothing that we've done that is perfect.
Let this be your fuel.
Let it drive you to 'reach beyond your grasp.'
Invite failure. In fact, risk it.
And when you do fail, do not be disheartened.
Only the imperfect can pursue perfection.
And achieve it.
Manny V. Pangilinan
PLDT Chairman and Founder of First Pacific Group
Proud Lexus Owner
Success is in the pursuit of perfection.
LEXUS
The Pursuit Of Perfection

2012 YEAREND Special

MOTORING



PARCO: Grateful for our customer's loyalty to our products

Another banner year for BMW

Record sales, opening of more dealerships and a technical school highlight 2012 for German brand

AS THE year comes to a close, Asian Carmakers Corp. (ACC), the official importer and distributor of BMW in the Philippines, is expected to dominate the luxury automotive segment once again with record sales of its 3 Series and 5 Series which were both introduced to the market in 2012.

"BMW did very well in the segments we wanted leadership in. The BMW 5 Series has been the leader in its segment since April, the 3 Series has also regained its spot at the forefront of its segment. Overall, it has been 21 consecutive months of leadership in the luxury segment through our products, which are at the core of our momentum," says ACC president Maricar Cristobal-Parco.

The BMW 5 Series, its sixth generation model, continued to be the biggest volume driver for BMW, while the 3 Series also noted its segment with about 50 percent sales growth to date.

The new generation 3 Series also proves to be the best selling sports sedan, setting a new benchmark in terms of sporting prowess, elegance and comfort. It is bigger than the previous model and it comes in three distinct lines—Sport, Luxury and Modern.

It is indeed a milestone year for ACC and BMW, especially since most luxury brand customers were cautiously optimistic at the early part of the year, according to Cristobal-Parco. "People were in a wait-and-see attitude during the first half of 2012, but the luxury market didn't seem to feel it as we seemed."



Despite the fact that the Philippines continued to exhibit a resiliency that defied economic problems for most part of the industrialized world, there were also significant changes taking place in the luxury segment of the motoring industry. "Due to certain factors, people have changed the way they look at luxury vehicles," Cristobal-Parco says.

"But it's good that the overall motoring industry is still on an upward trend. Suffice to say we are grateful for our customer's loyalty to our products due to the brand's affinity with quality, durability, reliability and innovation," she adds.

In 2012, ACC invested in non-traditional media, particularly out-of-home and digital, to boost their marketing efforts in the country. "These have paid off and resulted in our brand reaching out to a wider network of prospects. Also, our ability to cultivate a personalized communication with customers has strengthened our relationship with them," Cristobal-Parco says.

For example, in May ACC and BMW launched a major selling campaign by serving as the official mobility sponsor of the 45th ADB Annual Governors' Meeting held in Manila. A fleet of BMW 5 Series vehicles were used to ferry visiting heads of state to and from the venue.

To strengthen its dealership network, BMW held the groundbreaking ceremony of Auto Allee BMW at the Sixto District along Epifanio Delos Santos Avenue (Edsa), its fourth dealer in Metro Manila, in July.

BMW further expanded its reach in the Visayas region with the launch of its Cebu dealership, Autowelt BMW, and the inauguration of its [illegible] dealership, Autohaus BMW, in September.

Recently, and as part of its program to give back to the community, ACC inaugurated the Jose Ch. Alvarez (JCA) Technology Complex in Xavier University-Ateneo de Cagayan. This 2.3-hectare facility will be the new home of Xavier University Center for Integrated Technologies (XU-CIT) and is set to become the leading institution for technical education in Northern Mindanao.

"The JCA Technology Complex was conceived out of the need to respond to today's competitive labor landscape. We need an institution that will train our students in the latest technologies to become top-level technicians, helping them to be part of a competent labor force both here and abroad. This facility hopes to realize that," said Jose Ch. Alvarez, chair of ACC and Columbian Autocar Corp. (CAC).

With an investment of P72.3 million, the complex, which was built inside the Xavier University campus, will bring BMW's expertise to the students of Mindanao as part of its partnership with Xavier University-Ateneo de Cagayan.

It features training classrooms, laboratories, workshops, a canteen, a library, an auditorium, as well as administration offices, and other utilities and services. It will offer extensive skills development programs and the most advanced technical courses and modules aimed at developing technical skills of deserving Filipino students, training them to become the best technicians in the field of industrial and commercial technologies.

There are currently around 600 students who are enrolled in XU-CIT. With the newly constructed facility, the student population is expected to grow more.

The JCA Technology Complex will offer Automotive Technology where students have the option to undergo training in different BMW dealerships, and eventually have the opportunity to be absorbed in the company. The training school will also leverage on the advanced technologies and innovations of BMW so students are guaranteed first-hand training experience from the industry's best.

ACC will also be donating advanced training modules that will be incorporated in the curriculum of the school.

Looking forward to 2013, Cristobal-Parco says she is confident in the Philippines' economic outlook, "as the fundamentals are very sound. Influx of money from the OFW sector has been very consistent, and I believe consumer spending will continue to be on the rise."

She notes, though, that shifting preferences and trends leaning towards fuel-efficient cars with improved engine performance, as well as the rising popularity of connected technologies, will continue to drive consumer taste in 2013. "Which is why I believe the BMW brand is well positioned to continue to lead in the luxury segment as these are already standard features in our products for the past several years now," she adds.

"The BMW [illegible] has always been to provide customers sheer driving pleasure, and we have been pushing the envelope in terms of making the latest automotive innovations standard for our discerning target market," Cristobal-Parco says.

"Our hope is that the European market shows signs of recovery from its ongoing recession. I believe that this affects the worldwide luxury market. I also hope that the elections next year will turn out to be peaceful," she adds.







BMW INAUGURATES NEW XAVIER UNIVERSITY TECH COMPLEX



Cagayan de Oro – Xavier University-Ateneo de Cagayan, in cooperation with Asian Carmakers Corporation (ACC), the official importer and distributor of BMW cars in the Philippines, recently held the inauguration ceremony of the Jose Ch. Alvarez (JCA) Technology Complex. The JCA Technology Complex, the new home of Xavier University Center for Integrated Technologies (XU-CIT), is set to be the leading institution for technical education in Northern Mindanao.

The establishment of the JCA Technology Complex falls under the partnership that ACC made with Xavier University – Ateneo de Cagayan to bring BMW's expertise to the students of Mindanao.

Leading the inauguration event were ACC Chairman Jose Ch. Alvarez together with Fr. Roberto C. Yap, SJ, president of Xavier University, and Archbishop of Cagayan de Oro, Fr. Antonio J. Ledesma, SJ. The JCA Technology Complex will be offering extensive skills development programs and the most advanced technical courses and modules aimed at developing technical skills of deserving Filipino students, training them to become the best technicians in the field of Industrial and Commercial Technologies.

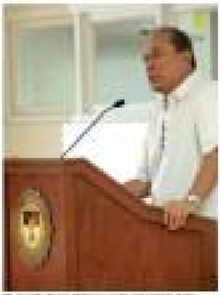
"The JCA Technology Complex was conceived out of the need to respond to today's competitive labor landscape. We need an institution that will train our students in the latest technologies to become top-level technicians, helping them to be part of a competent labor force both here and abroad. This facility hopes to realize that," said Mr. Alvarez.

Built on a 2.3-hectare lot inside the Xavier University, the P72.3-million modern technological education facility invested by ACC features training classrooms, laboratories and workshops, a canteen, a library, an auditorium, as well as administration offices, and other utilities and services.

The JCA Technology Complex will also be leveraging on the advanced technologies and innovations of BMW itself so students are guaranteed to have a firsthand training experience from the industry's best.

It will also feature its latest course offering, the Automotive Technology, where students will have the option to undergo training at different BMW dealerships, and eventually have the opportunity to be absorbed in the company. ACC, through the support of its regional office, BMW Asia, will also be donating advanced training modules that will be incorporated in the curriculum of the school.

At present, around 600 students are enrolled in XU-CIT, but with the newly constructed JCA Technology Complex, the number of student population is expected to grow more.



"I personally believe in the value of having a good education and recognize the talent of the Filipino youth and their need for progressive educational institutions. The new JCA Technology Complex hopes to not only cater to the technical skills requirement of Cagayan de Oro and the whole of Northern Mindanao; it also hopes to produce technical specialists who exhibit strong technical skills and leadership qualities, all founded on a strong sense of concern to the community," said Mr. Alvarez.

Mitsubishi Motors PH secures its own big numbers this year

By Charles E. Buban

LIKE National Basketball Association's legendary duo of Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen or fictional superheroes Batman and Robin, Toyota Motor Philippines and Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. form one of the most reliable match up that the country's automotive industry could bank on. Anytime.



Excellent start

Another bestseller

Confident

43,000



Nissan banks on the country's continued economic growth, new models in 2013

By Raquel Dimas

IN NOVEMBER, a fleet of flashy Nissan Teana sedans were seen traversing the streets of Cebu carrying Asean dignitaries and European officials for an international meeting. The luxury sedan, boasting of a design similar to modern executive European cars, while ably transporting these officials, did a better job of royally pampering these VIPs.

Strengthening the Nissan brand image

By Charles E. Buban

Innovations

Boost presence

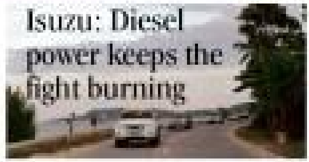
Honda sustains turnaround from two natural disasters

By Raquel Gomez



HATSUMI presents the All-New CR-V.

Isuzu: Diesel power keeps the fight burning



By Marito Bulasan

Strengthen business process

Memorable

The Professional's Choice

The Isuzu DMAX 4x4 LT is a favorite workhorse for contractors, developers, architects and engineers

Early this year, CW Home Depot Group launched its raffle promo called the Instant Jackpot which was formerly known as the Autolotto. Now on its fourth year, the raffle gives its consumers numerous chances to win several kinds of gadgets including the new iPad 3, Bose iPod Soundock, Fuji digital camera, iPhone 4S, 4GB USB flash drive and an Isuzu 4X4 LT D-MAX pickup truck as its grand raffle prize.

For every fifty thousand pesos worth of single receipt purchase at any CW Home Depot branch entitles a customer to a "Sure Win Scratch Card". These scratch cards can be claimed from the CW Home Depot customer service counter after each purchase. Aside from the gadget prizes, each customer with a Php300 worth of purchase entitles a customer to a raffle coupon to win the Isuzu D-MAX grand prize valued at over a million pesos. This is CW Home Depot's way of saying thanks to its valued customers for their continuous support and patronage, which saw the rise of the chain to be one of the top home improvement choices in the country.

The Isuzu D-MAX pickup truck is a favorite choice not only for consumers but for off-road enthusiasts as well as construction professionals like engineers, contractors, architects and entrepreneurs who are always on the field and need a dependable workhorse with a good cargo space without necessarily sacrificing the saloon-like comfort and amenities of an SUV. Its Isuzu 4JJ1-TC iTEQ Common Rail Direct Injection (CRDI) Turbo Intercooler Engine delivers 146 PS of power and 294 Nm of torque, giving a combination of power and efficiency for someone who is always on the go, whether it would be around town or out-of-town trips or even on demanding off-road terrains, thanks to its all-terrain tires and shift on the-fly 4-Wheel Drive (4WD) system which allows the driver to manually shift from 2-wheel drive to 4WD without stopping first.

With its in-dash selector switch, one can easily shift to 4WD Hi speed mode while under its rated speed. Isuzu is the only brand to offer two different types of front suspension, a coil spring independent suspension for its two-wheel drive pickups and independent double wishbone torsion bar spring suspension for its 4WD pickup models. Its independent double wishbone suspension with torsion bar springs and stabilizer bar allows a higher and yet stable ride height for off-road use while its semi-elliptical leaf spring with telescopic shock absorber rear suspension design allows optimal load capacity. This suspension design allows all its four wheels a lengthy wheel up-and-down travel that ensures it to stay in constant contact with the ground, in more extreme off-road terrains, its Limited Slip Differential (LSD) makes sure the D-MAX will keep on going, even if only three wheels are in contact with the ground.



It has a shift-on-the-fly feature that allows changes to 4WD mode while moving.



Its all-terrain tires are good even for off-road conditions.





Its powerful and efficient common-rail direct injection engine is the right tool for the job.



The cargo area is provided with a tough bed liner for heavy loads.

2012 YEAREND Special

MOTORING

Bright spots, sober realities

Philippine automotive trends in 2012

By Jason K. Ang

[illegible]

Small is beautiful

[illegible]

Rise of the sports cars

[illegible]

Smarter is better

[illegible]

More km per liter

[illegible]

Imports and the death of Philippine auto manufacturing

[illegible]

Surging passenger car sales drove Hyundai growth in 2012







Bright spots, sober realities...

Keeping the promise

Perfect symbolism

SL Roadster

Full range SUVs

Rough terrains to highways

More exciting year for Kia and CAC

Compliment

More exciting



CAC's brand strategy has been to develop strategic partnerships with sporting organizations in order to gain visibility and attract more audiences.

Isuzu: Diesel power...

Foton goes glocal

Its global strategic brand and technology alliances is seen as a boon to local market growth



Most aggressive, successful

Foton's The Big Show


THE FOTON E-jeep


FOTON vehicles on display at the Big Show

Who left, went where and how in 2012

By Alvin Uy

As we look forward and welcome the year 2013, Inquirer Motoring looks back at some of the executives and personalities who came and went in the auto industry.

Tan et. al. to Mazda-Berjaya

[illegible]

Graceful comeback

[illegible]

New boss for Motor Image/Subaru

[illegible]

Wuerth the wait for De Jesus

[illegible]

Del Rosario heads Bentley

[illegible]

Baladad moves to Isuzu purchasing

[illegible]

Mabilog to Peugeot

[illegible]

Castro to Goodyear

[illegible]

Record-breaking year for auto loans

PGA Cars

Four super brands and counting

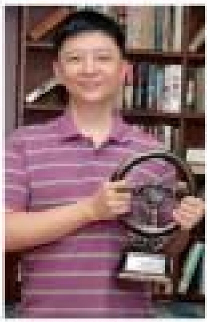


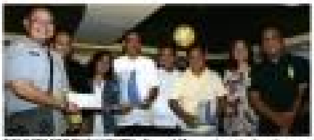






Another award-winning year for PDI motoring





BOUNTY FOR THE MIGHTY Four of 11 awards at the fourth Philippine International Motor Show

Ferrari, Maserati brands find new home in PH





Stars race for environment at Bridgestone Celebrity Charity Cup



[illegible]



Passion and Drive as Secrets to Success In Life

IN life's journey, there are many roads that lead to different places. Each venture may lead up or down. Nevertheless, everything will be worthwhile and memorable, especially when you have a reliable companion like Bridgestone. Four people have shared their own journey in life and how the brand exemplifies their paths to success.

Kenneth Cobonpue

Internationally renowned furniture designer Kenneth wowed the world with the way he creatively and ingeniously fuses form with function. His passion for unique designs made him an avid collector of classic and super sports cars, which he considers a perfect blend of form and function.

As a car expert, Kenneth states, "People don't realize having the right tire type and condition affects a car's handling as much as a car's suspension and steering set-up. I hope people realize the importance of safety and how the choice of tires can turn an otherwise fun and memorable trip into a real drag."

Bridgestone and Kenneth may seem to be coming from opposite ends of the spectrum but what brings them together is their passion for innovation and delivering world-class products that keep the environment in mind.



To match his luxurious car collection, Kenneth Cobonpue chooses Bridgestone.

Elbert Cuenca

Elbert is a famous restaurateur. When he sets his entrepreneurial skills aside, Elbert escapes to a world he calls his own. As a car enthusiast who enjoys being behind the wheel, Elbert continues, "More than my love for race cars, it's the driving that gives me a natural high."

With the extensive driving he does, he looks for a set of tires that can perform on a day-to-day basis but can also withstand the toughest terrains.

Being a Bridgestone user, Elbert is proud to say, "I believe in the product as it has proven to be a real performer for me. The right set of tires is important because I drive a lot, both within the city and to out-of-town trips."

With a thriving business to run and a unique passion to pursue, Elbert sure knows how to navigate the long and winding road to success.

Ernie Lopez

When he's not busy being at the helm a publishing empire, Ernie trades his patent leather shoes for a pair of trainers as an accomplished triathlete. As a doting father, Ernie also spends quality time with his children by going on road trips.

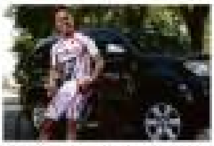
In every road trip, Ernie doesn't take chances when it comes to the comfort and safety of his family. And to achieve that seamless ride, Ernie relies only on Bridgestone tires.

As one of Bridgestone's Brand Ambassadors, Ernie claims, "I am honored to be chosen because with Bridgestone, I have never experienced a more reliable and durable tire. When I ride a car, I am going



With a passion for both food and driving, Elbert Cuenca has the best companion in his journey to success.

[illegible]



When he's not riding his bicycle, Ernie Lopez knows he's got Bridgestone tires to accompany him in all of his adventures.

much faster than on a bike and many times my family is with me, so I need tires that I can trust."

Indeed, Ernie has found the perfect tire to accompany him to all of his travels and adventures.

JP Tuason

JP Tuason, a multi-awarded race car driver and founder of the Tuason Racing School (TRS), has more than two decades of involvement in motorsports and automotive industry. He believes that getting into this extreme sport is also about confidence building. With the risks involved in the sport, it is very important that students are taught how to reach their limits without compromising safety.

Working hand in hand with Bridgestone, JP states, "We're very glad to have Bridgestone on our side because of the high quality tires they offer. Tires are very important to me because having a good set of tires can spell the difference between being safe and being in an accident."

Being a proud Bridgestone Ambassador, JP adds, "It is a great honor to be chosen to represent this brand. Based on my experiences on the race track, Bridgestone represents quality and performance. It has never let me down. I believe that I share the passion with Bridgestone: that everything must be done with a certain degree of excellence."

As they go through life's motion, Kenneth, Elbert, Ernie and JP prove that the journey to success should be lived with passion, and Bridgestone will always be there to join them for the drive.

Be a part of Team Bridgestone!



For JP Tuason, Bridgestone is the most reliable tire brand in and out of the race track.



Marc Tagle, SVP-GM of Philippine Allied Enterprises Corp. (PAEC), the exclusive distributor of Bridgestone Philippines.

Visit www.bridgestonetires.com.ph for more details.

Like us on facebook at www.facebook.com/BridgestonePhilippines



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2012 YEAREND Special

MOTORING

CHEVROLET PINS ITS COMPETITIVE EDGE ON ITS PRODUCT LINE, AFTER SALES SERVICE

Making inroads, gaining momentum

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

THE YEAR 2012 was a solid one for Chevrolet—the company introduced three new car models that catered to an increasing demand from major segments; sold some 3,200 units; and achieved double digit growth.

The American car company's "strong and resilient" performance, despite challenging conditions, mirrors that of the motoring industry at large.

"Having an extensive product lineup translated to more opportunities for the brand to cater to increasing market demands. The Trailblazer and Colorado were among our breakthrough products of the year as it was warmly accepted by the public," Alberto Arcilla, Chevrolet Philippines' president and managing director, told Inquirer.

According to Arcilla, they expect to close the year with a strong 15.8 percent improvement over 2011, and well above the industry's growth rate.

Aside from the Colorado (a pick-up truck) and the Trailblazer (a 7-seater diesel engine midsize SUV), Chevrolet also launched Sonic, the company's global sub-compact car product for individuals who live an urban lifestyle. Next year, expect to see Chevrolet Spin to be available in the market.

"We shall continue to focus on providing a great product lineup and well thought-out sales and aftersales services for the Filipino driving market who appreciates value for money, durability and classy design," Arcilla said.

While 2012 was a big success for Chevrolet, it didn't go without some hiccups. Earlier in the year, the company faced some production issues from their source plants. This gave headaches for people responsible in meeting the car company's sales targets for the year.

But when these issues were sorted out and the units did arrive in the latter half of the year, the new models were very well-received and sales target were hit.

"We adapted to the needs of the market and our dealer partners. We doubled our efforts in understanding our customers better, and maximized every opportunity that came our way through hard work and discipline," he said.

Chevrolet also grew its dealer network to 18 nationwide, with newly opened ones in Tacloban, Nueva Ecija, and Cagayan de Oro. A bigger presence in more places translates to a better capacity to serve Chevrolet consumers all over the country.

In 2013, the company expects to see three more launches to better serve and highlight all the best the company has to offer.

This year, Chevrolet Philip

MAKING B4-3



ARCILLA: We expect to close the year with a strong 15.8 percent improvement over 2011, and well above the industry's growth rate.

Inquirer ride-along

PDI Motoring staff picks its best drives for the year





ALVIN UY: FORD MUSTANG

BOTCH SANTOS: BENTLEY AND FT 86

CHARLES BUBAN: HYUNDAI ELANTRA



JASON ANG: SUBARU BRZ AND BMW 528

JEANETTE IPAPO-TUAZON: THE FERRARI CALIFORNIA

TESSA SALAZAR: MERCEDES-BENZ GLK











Inquirer ride-along



Vettel keeps getting better

Red Bull driver takes triple in a year of surprises in Formula One racing

FORMULA One fans have learned to expect the unexpected and 2012, despite Sebastian Vettel and Red Bull ending up as world champions for the third year in a row, was predictably unpredictable.

[illegible]

Schumacher and Stoner leave

[illegible]



VETTEL becoming, at 25, the sport's youngest triple champion was an easy prediction to make.

[illegible]

Legal Problems

[illegible]

Reuters



VETTEL celebrates his pole position at the Interlagos racetrack in São Paulo.

Primed for Speed

[illegible]



THE PHILIPPINES, a nation of speed lovers, must be next in the center of big motorsports players.

[illegible]

One Ford: taking PH on an exhilarating journey



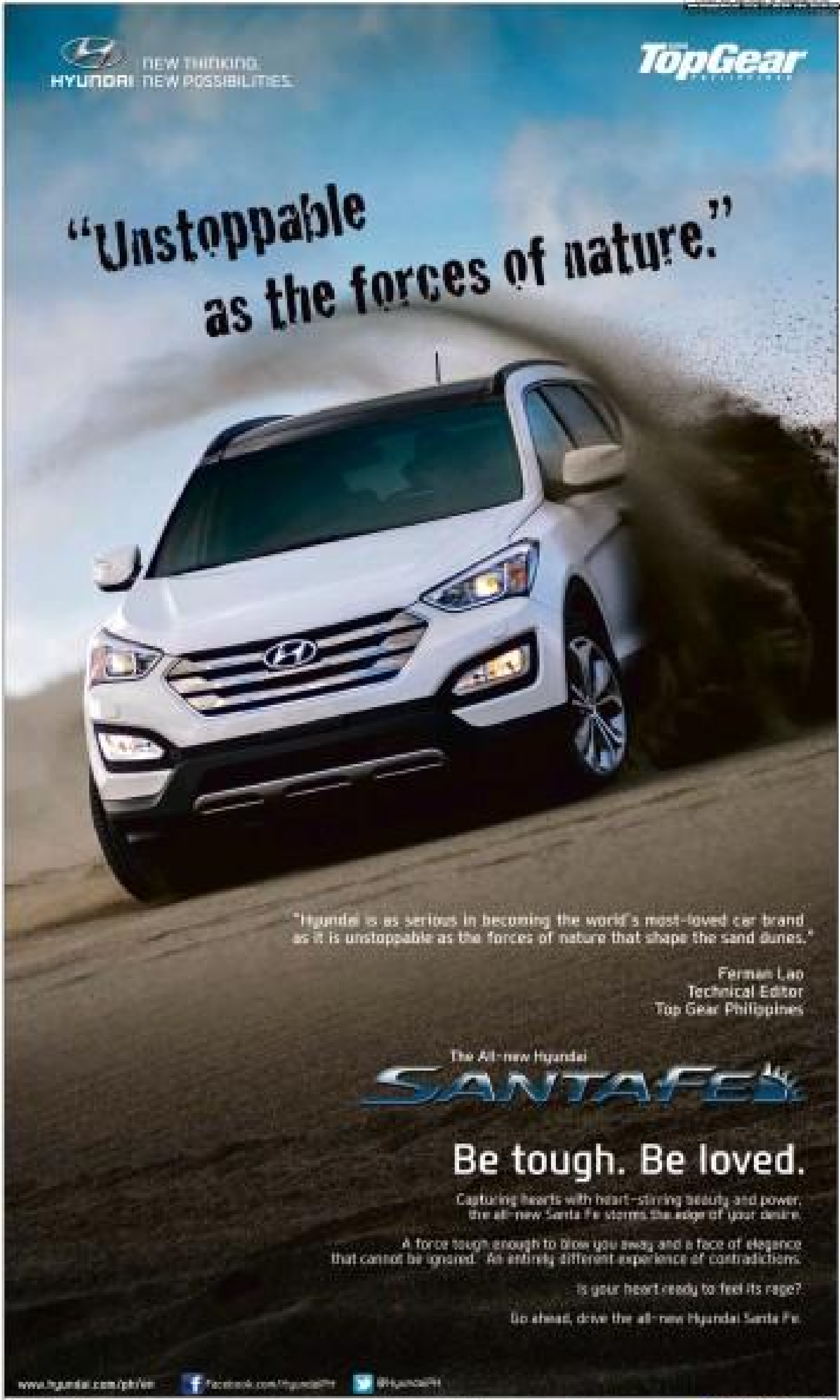


Making...

Suzuki sticks to fuel efficiency, low price

Inquirer ride-along





HYUNDAI
NEW THINKING.
NEW POSSIBILITIES.
TopGear
"Unstoppable as the forces of nature."
"Hyundai is as serious in becoming the world's most-loved car brand as it is unstoppable as the forces of nature that shape the sand dunes."
Ferman Lao
Technical Editor
Top Gear Philippines
The All-new Hyundai
SANTAFE
Be tough. Be loved.
Capturing hearts with heart-stirring beauty and power, the all-new Santa Fe storms the edge of your desire.
A force tough enough to blow you away and a face of elegance that cannot be ignored. An entirely different experience of contradictions.
Is your heart ready to feel its rage?
Go ahead, drive the all-new Hyundai Santa Fe.

Lifestyle Home & Entertaining

Mid-rise condos—around a manmade lake



TO EXPAND the condo, Ito Kish uses eight mirrors of equal size to frame a vortex of small scenes within the living room view. An American walnut-wood chair serves as a sharp accent piece. The sofa works as daybed.

Architect Anna Sy and design consultant Ito Kish design Pico de Loro Cove into a nature-dedicated resort community

By Margo C. Enriquez
Contributor

PROMOTING nature and its preservation is a come-on for second-home developments.

Take Hamilo Coast in Nasugbu, Batangas, which has a 13-km blanket of white-sand beaches and 13 coves on its contorted coast and mountain views to its west. The place has been gaining attention with the coming of Costa del Hamilo Inc., a subsidiary of SM Land Inc. and its sole developer.

Although it has a land area of 5,800 ha, only a third will be used for residences and leisure amenities. Two-thirds of the site has been set aside to remain undeveloped. To preserve the ecosystem, it has forged a partnership with World Wildlife Fund (WWF) in sustaining the environment by protecting the coast and its resources, utilizing renewable energy and solid waste management. The place is home to pawikan turtles, giant clams and rich coastal resources.

Lake view

According to the master plan, several coastal communities will be built in stages. Pico de Loro Cove is the first resort community with a range of active amenities. It consists of eight mid-rise (up to eight stories) 240-unit condominiums that are built around a manmade lake.

A one-bedroom unit measuring 48 sq m costs P5.5 million. A three-bedroom suite, which measures 134 sq m to 143 sq m, is at P12.2 million to P14.3 million. Buyers have the option to get a loft unit on the ground

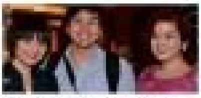
MID-RISE C4

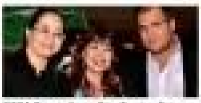


KISH'S white color scheme is soothing and fresh. The blown-up photo of pebbles doubles as headboard.









Of Christmas trees, Brazilian birthday bashes and European movies









WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache



New Baguio hotel

Congo Grille gig

Clothes alteration shop



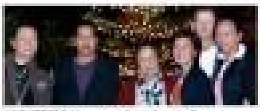


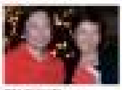


Cine Europa













You can 'loaf' during the holidays

THE CONSUMER

Linda B. Bolido

Worth emulating

Tap to pay

Lessons children could learn from 2012

From the year's victories and defeats, it's good for our kids to learn that what comes up must come down

Audrey Tan-Zubiri



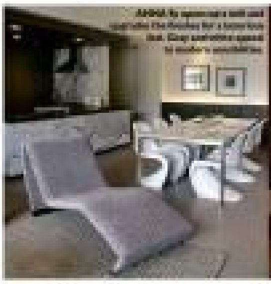
MAMA DIARIES

Wake-up call

Tasteful gift ideas from Italian design house











Mid-rise condos . . .





ENTERTAINMENT



Rafael Rosell
Actor/model
"I've been naughty because I'm single and been mingling with a lot of people. I've been nice in the sense that I make sure to keep in touch with my family—my parents and one sibling are in Singapore and another sibling is in Norway. I've also been nice because I've been spreading a lot of good and positive vibrations on Twitter and Instagram." —Marinel R. Cruz

NAUGHTY OR NICE?

Value of film preservation, restoration acknowledged

FOR YEARS now, we've been urging our film people and educators to preserve and restore our rapidly diminishing cinematic patrimony for future generations to delight in and learn from. Too many of our film classics have been lost forever due to benign neglect and clueless carelessness.

We aren't talking just about the movies of the 1930s, of which only two or three are still extant. The films of the '40s have also been decimated to an alarming degree, save for the output of a couple of major studios.

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

For instance, Sampaguita Pictures has been able to save, in one form or another, around 25 percent of its total output of 800 films.

A standout

From the '50s onward, the standout was FPJ Productions due to its top producer-owner Fernando Poe Jr.'s enlightened interest in film preservation, which prompted him to come up with inexpensive methods to preserve film negatives from celluloid's nasty penchant for "vinegar rot" and spontaneously catching fire when the room temperature rises.

FPJ's heirs have benefited a lot from his avid interest in film preservation, and so have all Filipino film buffs, because his starrers continue to be shown on TV to this day.

Until recently, however, film restoration had been done very occasionally. Even some of the movies of Lino Brocka and Ishmael Bernal have gone the way of all flesh—and flash of spontaneous combustion!

How woefully clueless and irresponsible of us to fail to see the value of movies, not just as entertainment products, but also as mirrors and the iconography of the nation's life as it has evolved through the years!

Happily, in the past couple of years, more organizations and enlightened individuals have invested in the restoration of our film classics, like "Genghis Khan," "Himala" and

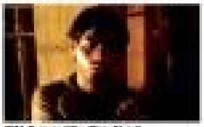
PAGE B3



Tribute to the Comedy King
PUPPETEER Wanlu, above, commissioned famous US-based craftsman Scott Land to make this Dolphy marionette. "It took months of planning and conceptualizing," Wanlu said. The special marionette was unveiled at the Cultural Center of the Philippines during the recent National Theater Festival. Apart from paying homage to the late Comedy King, Wanlu hopes the miniature Pidol will help "encourage young people to hone their talents in puppetry."

ENTERTAINMENT

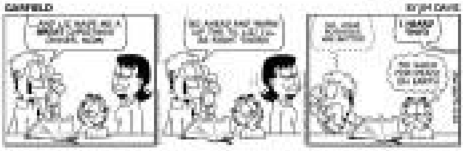
Value of film preservation…



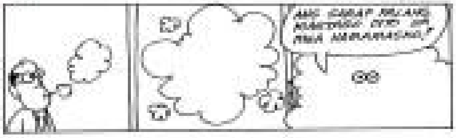




GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS



A. LIPIN — BY JESS ABRERA

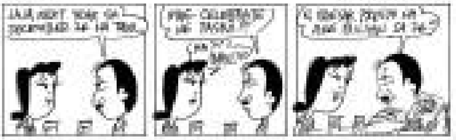


PUGAD BABOY — BY PM JUNIOR



DICK TRACY — BY JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS

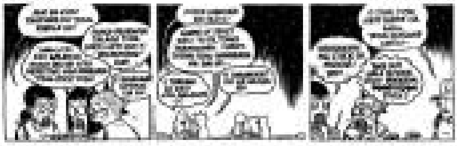




BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT



KIKO MACHINE — BY MANIX ABRERA



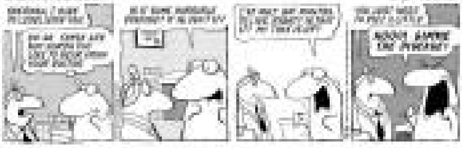
BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON



MUTTS — BY PATRICK MCDONNELL



SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY



DUSTIN — BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER





CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

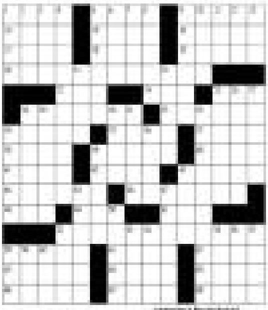
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			2			7		
8		2					5	
9	4				8			5
	2						4	
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2	1		6				3	
4				3	7	8		
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Difficulty Level ★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

DOWN





MTRCB Chair Eugenio "Toto" Villareal

New MTRCB chief: Parents make the best members

Lawyer, teacher

He hopes viewers will practice what he calls 'deliberate' viewership. 'We should all be more critical of everything that we see on-screen'

Invitation to vigilance





'Disney on Ice' features eight princesses



Indie joins the big league

Cinemalaya winner crosses over to the MMFF

How to add meaning to the holidays





KEN WERT